

# The Topeka State Journal.

TEN CENTS A WEEK.

LAST EDITION.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 17, 1894.

TWENTY-SECOND YEAR.

## HIS LIFE ENDED.

T. Dwight Thacher Passes Away at 1 P. M. Today.

His Last Hours Peaceful and Apparently Painless.

## HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS

To the Last—His Family at His Bedside.

The Funeral to Take Place on Saturday Morning.

At precisely one o'clock this afternoon, Timothy Dwight Thacher, who was stricken with apoplexy last Saturday morning, breathed his last. The end was peaceful and with no signs of a struggle or of pain. His family were aware that the inevitable was not far off, although it came more suddenly than they had expected.

Mr. Thacher was unconscious at the time of his death as he has been for the past twenty-four hours. His end was peaceful and with no signs of a struggle or of pain. His respiration had become very slow after 2 o'clock, and he drew three long breaths at intervals of about thirty seconds before his pulse ceased beating.

Mrs. Thacher, his three daughters and little son, and Judge Soden O. Thacher of Lawrence were at the bedside.

The funeral has been set for 11:30 o'clock Saturday morning in Grace Cathedral, of which he was a vestry member. Dean Colwell will officiate. The music will be furnished by the regular surviving choir of the church at the request of Mrs. Thacher. The pall-bearers will be chosen from the vestry of Grace Cathedral, composed of F. W. Giles, D. W. Nails, Dr. S. E. Sheldon, F. H. Biday, T. J. Rehman, William Henderson, P. G. Noel and C. R. McDonald.

The burial will be in the Topeka cemetery. Mr. Thacher had expressed in his preference on this point, and the family wished to have his last resting place as near his pleasant home as possible.

## MR. THACHER AS A BUSINESS MAN.

His Wealth Is Estimated at From \$100,000 to \$200,000.

Mr. Thacher was considered one of the wealthy men of Topeka and his wealth is variously estimated at from \$100,000 to \$200,000.

He owned considerable Topeka real estate and business property, including the handsome "Thacher" block on East Eighth street and the building adjoining it in which the state printing office is located. He had a beautiful home on Elmwood street, and was the owner of a large ranch in the western part of the county.

He was vice-president and a director in the Commercial Security company, a director of the First National bank, and was largely interested in the Edison Electric Light company. In addition he was the active manager of the Capital elevator in North Topeka and did a large business in grain and was a most successful dealer. His other property is scattered about Topeka, and he had some outside interests with which none but his most intimate friends are familiar.

It is understood that Mr. Thacher a few years ago secured a paid up life insurance policy for \$20,000 in a well-known eastern company, which can be counted among his assets.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

Story of the Distinguished Topeka Citizen Who Died Today.

Timothy Dwight Thacher was of English descent; his ancestors, if not illustrious, were one of the leading families that settled in the early days of the republic and helped with the others and labored to lay the foundation of the great republican structure.

The Thacher family is one of the oldest in New England. Rev. Thomas Thacher, son of Rev. Peter Thacher of Hallbury, England, came to Boston June 4, 1636, only eleven years after the first arrival of the Plymouth colonists. He was eminent in all departments of learning, and ranked among the leading physicians and theologians of his time. He was the author of the first medical work published in New England. He also published works of the best Helps to health and grammar for the use of Harvard university. From February 21, 1639, to the time of his death he was pastor of the Old South Church, in Boston.

A son, after his grandson, Rev. Oliver Thacher, associated with the patriotic cause, was engaged in the suppression through the abolition of the power exercised in the government of the colonies. Dr. Thacher—an unquestioned authority—states that the countrymen respecting wrote of assistance inaugurated and defended by these men was nothing more or less than the cause of independence.

Rev. Peter Thacher, brother of Oliver, at that time pastor of the Brattle street church, was a no less pronounced rebel against the oppression of the British crown. He delivered an oration before the colonial troops at Watertown, Mass., March 21, 1776, which was published and printed in several successive editions. In it for the first time the grievances of the colonies against the English government were enumerated in words and order so like that of the Declaration of Independence, which was penned by Jefferson, and promulgated on the succeeding July 4, as to seem a paraphrase of that immortal manifesto.

Timothy Dwight Thacher was of the seventh generation in direct descent from Rev. Peter Thacher, the patriot pastor of Brattle street church, Boston, in 1736. He was the second child and oldest son of Mowry and Melinda (Livermore) Thacher. His father was an intelligent farmer of Hornellsville, N. Y., where the subject of this sketch was born, October 21, 1841. He was bred on the farm, enjoying the educational advantages afforded by the public schools,

which at the age of fifteen were supplemented by a single term at the Franklin Academy, Prattburg, N. Y., where he acquired a fair knowledge of Latin, and imbibed classical studies that subsequently impelled him to further study.

From fifteen to nineteen he worked on the farm of his father, and in the lumbering region of western New York. At the age of twenty he determined to acquire a thorough education. He accordingly entered the Alfred academy, where he fitted for a collegiate course. Having completed thoroughly the full course of preparation with distinction, he entered the junior class of Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., in 1861, from which he graduated with honors, in the class of 1863.

*Returns to Eaton College.*

During the subsequent winter, 1863-64, he returned to Union college and began special studies in the upper-graduate course under Dr. Hinckley and Dr. Taylor Lewis. At that time two old academy classmates, who had already settled at Lawrence, Kansas, Lyman and Norman Allen, invited him to join them and take the editorial charge of the Lawrence Republican, a Free-state journal, which they were at that time publishing.

After consultation with friends, and in accordance with the advice of Dr. Nott, he accepted the invitation and thus entered the new paper circle, contrary to the unfeigned professional repugnance that had hitherto urged him on his educational labors. He arrived in Lawrence, Kansas, in April, 1864. The then young man did not come unheralded or unknown to his chosen field of work. He bore with him letters of commendation from his old teachers, Drs. Katz and Hickok, and from Horace Greeley, then in the flush of his wonderful journalistic career. They were all unimpaired, as he depended neither on his line of ancestry nor his friendly credentials for his start in life.

Confidently looking only to honest merit, backed by earnest endeavor to do the right, he began his work as an editor with the first number of the Lawrence Republican, May 28, 1864. His editorial conduct of the new Free-state journal was soon to place it at once at the head of the Free-state press of the territory, and insure its success as a Junius's undertaking. The paper was started under the proprietorship of Norman Allen. He sold out in the summer of 1868 to T. D. Thacher, and his cousin, S. M. Thacher, and his brother, S. M. Thacher.

Thus Mr. Thacher became part owner in the paper. He continued in editorial charge through various changes of proprietorship until December 31, 1869, at which time Mr. John Spear took the paper, and for a few months Mr. Thacher was disconnected with it. September 4, 1869, he began at the paper back, and continued his publication in connection with his brother, S. M. Thacher, until it was destroyed in the Quantrell raid, August 21, 1863. April 15, 1865, Mr. Thacher purchased the Journal of Commerce, published in Kansas City, and himself removed to that city, leaving the personal conduct of the Republican for the few months succeeding until his election in August, with his partner, S. M. Thacher.

*Sells the Journal of Commerce.*

He continued the publication of the Journal of Commerce until April, 1866, at which time he sold it to Moses Van Horn & Holloway, and, in the following September, removed to Philadelphia because connected with the Evening Telegraph, as chief editorial writer, which position he held for over two years. In January, 1868, he returned to Lawrence, and on February 1, re-established the Republican, March 4, 1868, the paper was consolidated with the State Journal, and afterward convened at Cincinnati in August, with his partner, S. M. Thacher.

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*Two years later Mr. Thacher sole proprietor of the paper.*

Since 1868, the paper established by him has been known as the Lawrence Journal, and has continued under his management up to 1882. During his long connection with Kansas journalism he evinced rare ability, and deservedly ranked among the best journalists of the west. His early eloquent and vigorous advocacy of Free-state doctrines brought him into political prominence almost as soon as he arrived in the territory.

He engaged actively in the exciting work of making Kansas a free-state, in 1865 continuing his work for the evolution of his paper. He sought to fulfil the measure of his powers to strengthen the Free-state party, spoke often and eloquently for the cause, and was one of the most industrious and efficient organizers of those turbulent days. His political career did a large business in grain and was a most successful dealer. His other property is scattered about Topeka, and he had some outside interests with which none but his most intimate friends are familiar.

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He was the second child and oldest son of Mowry and Melinda (Livermore) Thacher. His father was an intelligent and trusted member of the Congregational church in Boston, and was a leader of the Free-state men in that city.

Mr. Thacher, a son of Rev. Peter Thacher, brother of Oliver, was a no less pronounced rebel against the oppression of the British crown. He delivered an oration before the colonial troops at Watertown, Mass., March 21, 1776, which was published and printed in several successive editions. In it for the first time the grievances of the colonies against the English government were enumerated in words and order so like that of the Declaration of Independence, which was penned by Jefferson, and promulgated on the succeeding July 4, as to seem a paraphrase of that immortal manifesto.

"Without intention of his own, Mr.

Thacher found himself the virtual leader of those who opposed the plans of participating in the election. His speeches during this high debate are still recalled by all Kansans, irrespective of sides they took upon the question in issue, as among the highest efforts of argumentative eloquence. Notwithstanding Governor Robinson and most of the leaders of the Free-state party favored the policy of voting, the convention decided against it, and adhered to its original proposition.

Prior to his return to his work on the farm of his father, and in the lumbering region of western New York, at the age of twenty he determined to acquire a thorough education. He accordingly entered the Alfred academy, where he fitted for a collegiate course. Having completed thoroughly the full course of preparation with distinction, he entered the junior class of Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., in 1861, from which he graduated with honors, in the class of 1863.

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*The Constitutional Convention.*

He was one of the delegates from Lawrence to the constitutional convention held at Leavenworth, from March 25 to April 3, 1865, where he retained his radical views successfully against an anti-slavery opposition, and with others prevented the word "white" from appearing in the constitution in connection with the rights of citizenship.

In January, 1865, Mr. Thacher was elected a general soldier in the legislature. The government refusing to recognize the authority of that body, the legislature adjourned in empty houses. Mr. Thacher was a delegate to the convention held at Lawrence, May 18-19, at which the Republican party was formally organized in Kansas. The convention was called to order by him and his object briefly stated. He also served as one of the secretaries, and as a member of the committee on resolutions, wrote some of the most radical parts of the platform adopted.

He was also a member of the Republican state convention held at Topeka for the nomination of state officers under the Wyandotte constitution, and made the speech nominating Charles Robinson as governor. He was nominated as one of the Republican presidential electors for 1868; the state not being admitted prior to the election, he consequently did not serve. He, however, did good service during the campaign which resulted in the first national Republican triumph, speaking during the autumn in the states of Michigan and New York. Mr. Thacher was chosen secretary of the state Republican committee in May, 1864, and was chairman of the committee on credentials in the state convention, held September 17, 1862. He was strongly urged by many friends, without solicitation from him, as a congressional candidate, and his name was presented, receiving fifteen votes on the sixth ballot.

From 1863 to 1865 Mr. Thacher was not a resident of Kansas. Since his return, he has been a prominent and hard-working member of the Republican party, as in the summer of 1868 to 1869, he was a member of the state committee on education, and was a strong advocate of the Free-state cause.

*Elected to the Legislature.*

In 1874 he was a delegate to the Republican state convention, and was chosen its president. During the fall of that year he made a thorough personal canvass of Douglas county, interviewed all the Republican ranks, from which he had been detached the year before by the Wyandotte constitution, and made the speech nominating Charles Robinson as governor. He was nominated as one of the Republican presidential electors for 1868; the state not being admitted prior to the election, he consequently did not serve. He, however, did good service during the campaign which resulted in the first national Republican triumph, speaking during the autumn in the states of Michigan and New York. Mr. Thacher was chosen secretary of the state Republican committee in May, 1864, and was chairman of the committee on credentials in the state convention, held September 17, 1862. He was strongly urged by many friends, without solicitation from him, as a congressional candidate, and his name was presented, receiving fifteen votes on the sixth ballot.

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